

1 **In the Claims**

2 Claims 23-55 were previously canceled without prejudice.

3 Claims 1-22 remain in the application for consideration and are listed  
4 below:

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6 1. (Original) A multi-state handle administration system in which  
7 handles are capable of assuming states comprising:

8 an unassigned state in which a handle is not assigned to a particular  
9 resource;

10 an assigned state in which a handle is assigned to a particular resource and  
11 can be dereferenced to obtain a pointer to the resource; and

12 a suspended state in which a handle is assigned to a particular resource but  
13 cannot be dereferenced to obtain a pointer to that resource.

14  
15 2. (Original) The handle administration system of claim 1, wherein  
16 handles can be suspended from the assigned state into the suspended state.

17  
18 3. (Original) The handle administration system of claim 1, wherein  
19 handles can be reinstated from the suspended state into the assigned state.

20  
21 4. (Original) The handle administration system of claim 1, wherein  
22 handles can be released from the suspended state to the unassigned state.

1           5.     (Original) The handle administration system of claim 1, wherein  
2 handles can be released from both the suspended and the assigned states to the  
3 unassigned state.

4  
5           6.     (Original) The handle administration system of claim 1 further  
6 comprising a handle database that is configured to contain indicia that indicate  
7 whether a handle is assigned, unassigned or suspended.

8  
9           7.     (Original) The handle administration system of claim 6, wherein said  
10 indicia comprises a field for holding a value that indicates that a handle is in a  
11 suspended state.

12  
13           8.     (Original) The handle administration system of claim 6, wherein said  
14 indicia comprises a handle value field for holding a value that indicates that a  
15 handle is in a suspended state.

16  
17           9.     (Original) A handle administrator configured to manage handles that  
18 are associated with resources, the handle administrator being configured to place  
19 the handles in one of more than two possible states which affect whether a handle  
20 can be dereferenced to provide a pointer to the resource with which the handle is  
21 associated.

22  
23           10.    (Original) The handle administrator of claim 9, wherein one of the  
24 states comprises a suspended state in which the handle is associated with a  
25 particular resource but cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to that resource.

1  
2 11. (Original) The handle administrator of claim 10, wherein two of the  
3 states comprise:

4 an assigned state in which a handle is associated with a resource and can be  
5 dereferenced to provide a pointer to that resource; and

6 an unassigned state in which the handle is not associated with any resources  
7 and cannot be dereferenced to provide a pointer to any of the resources.  
8

9 12. (Original) The handle administrator of claim 11, wherein the handle  
10 administrator is configured to suspend handles from an assigned state into a  
11 suspended state.  
12

13 13. (Original) The handle administrator of claim 11, wherein the handle  
14 administrator is configured to reinstate handles from a suspended state into an  
15 assigned state.  
16

17 14. (Original) The handle administrator of claim 11, wherein the handle  
18 administrator is configured to release handles from the suspended state to the  
19 unassigned state.  
20

21 15. (Original) The handle administrator of claim 11, wherein the handle  
22 administrator is configured to release handles from the suspended state and the  
23 assigned state to the unassigned state.  
24

25 16. (Original) A handle administration system comprising:

1 one or more computer-readable media; and  
2 software code embodied on the computer-readable media which is  
3 configured implement a handle administration system that comprises:

4 an unassigned state in which a handle is not assigned to a particular  
5 resource;

6 an assigned state in which a handle is assigned to a particular  
7 resource and can be dereferenced to obtain a pointer to the resource; and

8 a suspended state in which a handle is assigned to a particular  
9 resource but cannot be dereferenced to obtain a pointer to that resource.

10  
11 17. (Original) A resource management system configured to manage  
12 resources comprising:

13 one or more resources that can be consumed by one or more agents; and

14 a handle administrator configured to administer a handle system in which  
15 handles to the one or more resources are provided to the agents and can be  
16 dereferenced into pointers to the one or more resources, the handle system  
17 comprising more than two states for a handle, the states comprising:

18 an assigned state in which a handle is associated with a resource and  
19 can be dereferenced into a pointer to that resource;

20 an unassigned state in which the handle is not associated with a  
21 resource and cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to any resources; and

22 a suspended state in which the handle is associated with a resource  
23 but cannot be dereferenced into a pointer to any resources.

1 18. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17 further  
2 comprising one or more agents that are consumers of one or more resources.

3  
4 19. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
5 the handles can be suspended from the assigned state to the suspended state.

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7 20. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
8 the handles can be reinstated from the suspended state to the assigned state.

9  
10 21. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
11 the handles can be released from the suspended state to the unassigned state.

12  
13 22. (Original) The resource management system of claim 17, wherein  
14 the handles can be released from the suspended and the assigned states to the  
15 unassigned state.

16  
17 23.-55. (Canceled).